

## **Planning Guide Occasion Poem**

### **I. Introduction – First stanza\*\***

- A. The occasion (central idea, setting, series of happenings, or situation)
- B. Significant characters
- C. Set the stage, type of poem, and structure using figurative and sensory language

### **II. Stanzas\***

- A. Identify the event or main idea
- B. Supporting details using figurative and sensory language
- C. Reflections or ideas that contribute to message

### **III. Final stanza and outcome**

- A. Outcome that conveys the message of the poem
- B. Insight using figurative and sensory language
- C. Parting thought

\*There is no set number of events or details. Poets may choose any creative structure to express message of the poem that builds on a theme.

\*\*Consider the conventions of poetry

# My Shadow

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,  
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.  
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;  
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow--  
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;  
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india-rubber ball,  
And he sometimes goes so little that there's none of him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,  
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.  
He stays so close behind me, he's a coward you can see;  
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,  
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;  
But my lazy little shadow, like an errant sleepy-head,  
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed.

by Robert Louis Stevenson



## Planning Organizer – Reverse Outline Occasion Poem

The “what” and the “who”	First stanza	<b>A boy observes his shadow and describes it as very much like him.</b>
	Occasion	
	Significant characters	
	Set the stage and structure	
	Second stanza	<b>The speaker is describing how his shadow grows and shrinks.</b>
	Third stanza	
	Fourth stanza	
		<b>The speaker describes the shadow as a coward because it sticks close by him.</b>
		<b>The speaker cleverly describes as lazy because he doesn’t see it before the sun was up.</b>

## Revision Checklist Occasion Poem

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

Significant  
characters \_\_\_\_\_

Set the stage \_\_\_\_\_

First stanza\*

    Identify \_\_\_\_\_

    Support \_\_\_\_\_

    Reflection \_\_\_\_\_

Second stanza

    Identify \_\_\_\_\_

    Support \_\_\_\_\_

    Reflection \_\_\_\_\_

Final outcome

    Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

    Insight \_\_\_\_\_

    Parting thought \_\_\_\_\_

Figurative and sensory language**	Conventions of Poetry	Specific details
_____	_____	_____

The poem should include:

An introduction that focuses attention on the subject and prepares the reader for what is to follow

Supporting details in a logical order that helps the reader understand the message

Transitions to give stanzas coherence

Conclusion that may restates the occasion in fresh words and states an insight or a lesson learned from the experience

\*No set number of events or details

\*\*Use tally marks each time figurative and sensory language or other conventions of poetry are used.